COMPLAINT

**INTRODUCTION** 

1. This class action is brought by Plaintiff Antony Green ("PLAINTIFF")
individually and on behalf of present and former employees of AT&T SERVICES, INC.,
doing business as AT&T ("DEFENDANT") who were scheduled for on-call time in
California during the Class Period. DEFENDANT failed to correctly pay regular and
overtime compensation for PLAINTIFF and other similarly situated employees because
DEFENDANT systematically failed to pay PLAINTIFF and other similarly situated
employees for the actual numbers of hours worked, regular and/or overtime, during the
CLASS PERIOD. These employees were placed onto standby, on-call duty but were not
paid the required compensation for these hours worked, regular and/or overtime, during the
CLASS PERIOD. The DEFENDANT's on-call policies require these employees to respond
instantly to automatic pages, twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, which
restricts their activities and geographic location, with no compensation paid for the on-call,
stand-by work time. As a result, PLAINTIFF and other employees did not receive
compensation for all hours worked, including but not limited to the overtime hours worked.
The wage statements and DEFENDANT's practices with respect to such wage statements
issued to PLAINTIFF and other similarly situated employees also violate California law, and
in particular, Labor Code § 226 because the on-call time is not correctly reported as hours
worked. The policies and practices of DEFENDANT alleged herein constitute deceptive,
unfair and/or unlawful business practices whereby DEFENDANT retained wages due
PLAINTIFF and other similarly situated employees for all hours worked. PLAINTIFF seeks
an injunction enjoining such conduct by DEFENDANT in the future, relief for the named
PLAINTIFF and other similarly situated employees as set forth herein below, and all other
appropriate equitable relief.
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2. Defendant AT&T SERVICES, INC., is a corporation with headquarters in Texas. AT&T SERVICES, INC. conducts business under the name "AT&T", and is collectively referred to herein as "AT&T" or "DEFENDANT". AT&T is the party who established and is responsible for the practices alleged herein. DEFENDANT is engaged in

the business of providing broadband and other wireless and wireline communications services to mass market, business, government and wholesale customers throughout California and the United States. Specifically, DEFENDANT provides Information Technology ("IT") services throughout California, including in San Diego County, Los Angeles County, Orange County, Santa Clara County, San Mateo County and Alameda County, where members of the Class alleged herein work and reside.

- 3. DEFENDANT conducted and continues to conduct substantial and regular business throughout California and also is an enterprise that affects commerce by engaging in the enterprise of engaging in nationwide communications through interstate commerce and by regularly and recurrently receiving or transmitting interstate communications.
- 4. AT&T is based in Texas and incorporated in Delaware. AT&T continues to have a nationwide presence in wireline and wireless markets, with millions of Americans connecting to a AT&T network daily. AT&T generated more than \$124 billion in 2008 total consolidated operating revenues, and at year-end 2008, AT&T had approximately 300,000 employees.

#### **CONDUCT**

5. AT&T's business involves the providing of providing IT, wireline, and broadband services to consumers, companies, businesses and government entities. In order to provide these continuous services, AT&T employs a staff who maintain the hardware, software, applications and desktops for AT&T and its end-users. AT&T requires this maintenance staff to work at all hours of the night and day to keep the services operation and to resolve problems immediately. As a result, non-exempt IT Maintenance Staff are required to remain on-call standby. AT&T's on-call policies require these employees to respond within 15 minutes of being called and require immediate resolution of the issue depending upon system to be repaired, twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week. The on-call standby employees are contacted via automatic pages sent via the AT&T

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computer system and calls to the employee's home. These requirements so restrict and control the employee, that these employees are unable to engage in private pursuits. AT&T does not pay any compensation for the on-call stand-by hours, even though these hours qualify as hours worked.

- The non-exempt employees who perform IT maintenance duties have 6. been given the titles of "computer technical workers", "information technology support workers" and other similar nomenclature. Collectively, employees in these positions are referred to herein as the "IT Maintenance Staff." The work performed by these employees primarily involves the day to day labor required to maintain, repair, troubleshoot, build and monitor the computerized IT system for AT&T and end-users. The work performed by these employees also requires performance of non-office, manual labor, including but not limited to carrying, lifting, bending and physical installation of computer hardware parts and components. As a matter of course, technical problems often arise with this equipment at all hours of the day and at all hours of the night. Responding to these problems and maintenance demands are not only performed throughout the normal workday, but also pursuant to an on-call policy imposed by AT&T by which these employees were and still are responsible to respond to calls and perform troubleshooting work to resolve the problems at issue at all hours of the night. All of these job duties are non-exempt job duties. These employees perform these functions according to established company policies, protocols, and procedures. This action involves the uniform policies and practices of AT&T with respect to a Class consisting of all IT Maintenance Staff members who were classified by AT&T as non-exempt hourly employees and who were scheduled for on-call standby work during the applicable Class Period as set forth herein (the "CLASS").
- 7. Plaintiff Antony Green is an employee of DEFENDANT and continues to work for DEFENDANT to the present day. During the CLASS PERIOD, PLAINTIFF was and still is employed by DEFENDANT in a non-exempt IT Maintenance Staff position. As a non-exempt IT Maintenance Staff employee, PLAINTIFF was and still is required to perform standby on-call work pursuant to DEFENDANT's on-call policy which requires

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- The work schedule and on-call schedule for PLAINTIFF and other IT 8. Maintenance Staff employees is dictated by the general management of AT&T to which they directly report, and the demands of work. The on-call schedule for PLAINTIFF when scheduled for an on-call shift is twenty-four hours a day during both the week and weekends. The on-call schedule and on-call requirements so restrict the activities and geographic location of the IT Maintenance Staff employees that the on-call hours constitute hours worked.
- For this on-call stand-by work, PLAINTIFF and other IT Maintenance Staff 9. employees receive no compensation and/or receive miscalculated compensation for repair work when pages or calls are received. When PLAINTIFF and other IT Maintenance Staff employees are subject to on-call pages and on-call repairs, PLAINTIFF and other IT Maintenance Staff employees are required to immediately respond and perform the required work. The records of the DEFENDANT will evidence the on-call work. When an on-call page is received, and PLAINTIFF and other members of the CLASS are required to perform

- employed as working members of the production side of DEFENDANT's business. The primary job duties of PLAINTIFF and IT Maintenance Staff employees were and are to troubleshoot, repair, configure, and maintain computers systems of DEFENDANT and DEFENDANT's clients, using manual labor and computer technician skills. As a result, PLAINTIFF and the other non-exempt on-call employees were not and currently are not primarily involved in providing office or non-manual work directly related to the management policies or general business operations with respect to matters of significance. The work of PLAINTIFF and the other non-exempt on-call employees also does not involve specialized or technical work that requires special training, experience or knowledge. The work of PLAINTIFF and other non-exempt on-call employees also does not involve the management of the enterprise and these employees do not customarily and regularly exercise discretion and independent judgment. Instead, PLAINTIFF and the other non-exempt oncall IT Maintenance Staff employees were and currently are primarily involved in providing day to day, routine, and general, manual labor related to the production and delivery of DEFENDANT's business products. Physical demands of the position include standing, sitting, walking, bending, counting, checking, talking, and installing products.
- 11. DEFENDANT's unlawful, unfair, and deceptive employment and wage practices cheat the PLAINTIFF and the other IT Maintenance Staff employees out of their lawful wages due for all hours worked as required by California and federal law.
  - 12. PLAINTIFF brings this class action on behalf of himself and a Class

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consisting of all individuals who are or previously were employed by DEFENDANT in a IT Maintenance Staff position in California that was classified by DEFENDANT as non-exempt, and who were scheduled for on-call standby work (the "CLASS") during the CLASS PERIOD. The class period applicable to this CLASS is defined as the period beginning four years prior to the filing of this Complaint and ending on the date of as determined by the Court (the "CLASS PERIOD"). As a matter of company policy and practice, DEFENDANT uniformly classified every member of the CLASS as non-exempt, but failed to pay the required straight and overtime compensation due these employees for all hours worked, and otherwise failed to comply with all labor laws with respect to these employees.

- 13. Individuals in the CLASS are and were employees who are entitled to regular, and overtime compensation and prompt payment of amounts that the employer owes an employee for all hours worked when the employee quits or is terminated, and other compensation and working conditions that are prescribed by law. Although DEFENDANT required the employees in the CLASS to work more than forty (40) hours a week, eight (8) hours in a workday, and /or on the seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) day of a workweek, as a matter of company policy and practice, DEFENDANT consistently and uniformly failed and still fails to implement a practice and procedure that compensates for all hours worked by these employees, including on-call time. The PLAINTIFF and members of the CLASS currently work or previously worked on-call in California at times during the CLASS PERIOD for DEFENDANT and DEFENDANT's practices and procedures as alleged herein are and were common throughout California at all relevant times.
- 14. In this action, PLAINTIFF, on behalf of himself and the CLASS, seeks to recover all the money that DEFENDANT was required by law to pay, but failed to pay, to PLAINTIFF and all other CLASS members for work performed. PLAINTIFF also seeks penalties and all other relief available to him and other similarly situated employees under California law. PLAINTIFF also seeks declaratory relief finding that the employment

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practices and policies of the DEFENDANT violate California law and injunctive relief to enjoin the DEFENDANT from continuing to engage in such employment practices and as necessary to remedy the unfair and unlawful employment practices.

- PLAINTIFF and all members of the CLASS are and were classified under 15. Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order 1-2001 and Cal. Lab. Code §§ 510 et seq. and Section 13(a)(5) of the Fair Labor Standards Act (the "FLSA") as non-exempt from applicable federal and state labor laws. Under both the FLSA and California Labor Law, these employees may only be classified as exempt if the employee primarily engages in duties and responsibilities involving (i) the "performance of office or non-manual work directly related to management policies or general business operations" of DEFENDANT, (ii) the customary and regular exercising of discretion and independent judgment, (iii) performed only under general supervision work along specialized or technical lines requiring special training, experience, or knowledge, and (iv) is paid a monthly salary equivalent to two times the minimum wage for full-time employment. PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CLASS do not meet all of these requirements. As a result of the DEFENDANT's consistent policy and practice as herein alleged, DEFENDANT failed and still fail to pay overtime and other required compensation in accordance with applicable law.
- By reason of this uniform conduct applicable to PLAINTIFF and all 16. members of the CLASS, DEFENDANT committed acts of unfair competition in violation of the California Unfair Competition Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 (the "UCL"), by engaging in a company-wide policy and procedure which failed to correctly pay the PLAINTIFF and the CLASS of similarly situated employees all compensation required for all hours worked. DEFENDANT violated the FLSA and the California Labor Code and regulations promulgated thereunder as herein alleged.
- PLAINTIFF and the members of the CLASS have no plain, speedy or 17. adequate remedy at law and will suffer irreparable injury if DEFENDANT is permitted to continue to engage in the unlawful acts and practices herein alleged. The illegal conduct alleged herein is continuing and to prevent future injury and losses, and to avoid a

multiplicity of lawsuits, PLAINTIFF is entitled to an injunction and other equitable relief, on behalf of himself and the CLASS, to prevent and enjoin such practices. PLAINTIFF therefore requests a preliminary and/or permanent injunction as the DEFENDANT provides no indication that DEFENDANT will not continue such wrongful activity in the future, along with restitution, penalties, interest, compensation and other equitable relief as provided by law.

#### THE CLASS

- 18. PLAINTIFF brings this class action on behalf of himself and a Class consisting of all individuals who are or previously were employed by DEFENDANT in a IT Maintenance Staff position in California that was classified by DEFENDANT as non-exempt and who were scheduled for on-call standby work (the "CLASS") during the CLASS PERIOD. To the extent equitable tolling operates to toll claims by the CLASS against DEFENDANT, the CLASS PERIOD should be adjusted accordingly.
- 19. The California Legislature has commanded that "all wages... ...earned by any person in any employment are due and payable twice during each calendar month, on days designated in advance by the employer as the regular paydays", and further that "[a]ny work in excess of eight hours in one workday and any work in excess of 40 hours in any one workweek...shall be compensated at the rate of no less than one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for an employee." (Lab. Code §204 and §510(a).) The Industrial Welfare Commission (IWC), however, is statutorily authorized to "establish exemptions from the requirement that an overtime rate of compensation be paid... ...for executive, administrative, and professional employees, provided [inter alia] that the employee is primarily engaged in duties that meet the test of the exemption, [and] customarily and regularly exercises discretion and independent judgment in performing those duties..." (Lab. Code §510(a).) Neither the PLAINTIFF nor the other members of the CLASS qualify for exemption from the above requirements.
  - 20. DEFENDANT, as a matter of company policy, practice and procedure, and

21. DEFENDANT has the legal burden to establish that each and every non-exempt employee is paid for all hours worked, to accurately record all hours worked by non-exempt employees, and to accurately record split shift intervals. The DEFENDANT, however, as a matter of uniform and systematic policy and procedure failed to have in place during the CLASS PERIOD and still fails to have in place a policy or practice to accurately record hours worked, including on-call hours and split shift intervals, so as to satisfy their burden. This common business practice applicable to each and every CLASS member can be adjudicated on a class-wide basis as unlawful, unfair, and/or deceptive under Cal. Business & Professions Code §17200, et seq. (the "UCL") as causation, damages, and reliance are not elements of this claim.

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- 22. At no time before or during PLAINTIFF's employment with DEFENDANT was the compensation for any member of the CLASS properly recalculated so as to compensate the employee for all hours worked, including on-call time, and/or split shift compensation as required by California Labor Code §§ 204 and 510, et seq.
- 23. The CLASS, numbering more than 100 members, is so numerous that joinder of all members of the CLASS is impracticable

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- DEFENDANT uniformly violated the rights of the CLASS under California 24. law by:
- Violating the California Unfair Competition Laws, Cal. Bus. & Prof. (a) Code § 17200, et seq., by unlawfully, unfairly and/or deceptively having in place company policies, practices and procedures that failed to pay all wages due the CLASS for all hours worked, including on-call, stand-by time and failed to accurately record all hours worked by the CLASS, including on-call, stand-by time;
- Violating Cal. Lab. Code § 204 and §510, et seq. by failing to pay the (b) correct wage and overtime pay owed to PLAINTIFF and the members of the CLASS for regular and overtime hours worked, including compensation for on-call standby time and/or split shift compensation;
- Violating Cal. Lab. Code § 226 by failing to provide PLAINTIFF and (d) the members of the CLASS with an accurate itemized statement in writing showing the gross wages earned, the net wages earned, all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period, split shift intervals, and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee; and,
- Violating Cal. Lab. Code §§ 210, 202 and 203 by failing to provide timely payment of all wages owed to the members of the CLASS who failed to receive the correct wages for all hours worked, including compensation for on-call standby time and/or split shift compensation, and who have terminated their employment.
- 25. This Class Action meets the statutory prerequisites for the maintenance of a Class Action as set forth in Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 23, in that:
- The persons who comprise the CLASS exceed 100 persons and (a) are therefore so numerous that the joinder of all such persons is impracticable and the disposition of their claims as a class will benefit the parties and the Court;
- Nearly all factual, legal, statutory, declaratory and injunctive (b) relief issues that are raised in this Complaint are common to the CLASS will apply uniformly to every member of the CLASS;

- (c) The claims of the representative PLAINTIFF are typical of the claims of each member of the CLASS. PLAINTIFF, like all other members of the CLASS, was and still is a non-exempt employee who was subjected to the DEFENDANT's practice and policy which failed to pay all wages due the CLASS for all hours worked, including on-call time, and failed to accurately record and pay for all hours worked, including on-call time. PLAINTIFF sustained economic injury as a result of DEFENDANT's employment practices alleged herein. PLAINTIFF and the members of the CLASS were and are similarly or identically harmed by the same unlawful, deceptive, unfair and pervasive pattern of misconduct engaged in by DEFENDANT.
- (d) The representative PLAINTIFF will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interest of the CLASS, and has retained counsel who are competent and experienced in class action litigation. There are no material conflicts between the claims of the representative PLAINTIFF and the members of the CLASS that would make class certification inappropriate. Counsel for the CLASS will vigorously assert the claims of all members of the CLASS.
- 26. In addition to meeting the statutory prerequisites to a Class Action, this action is properly maintained as a class action pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 23, in that:
- (a) Without class certification and determination of declaratory, injunctive, statutory and other legal questions within the class format, prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the CLASS will create the risk of:
- 1) Inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual members of the CLASS which would establish incompatible standards of conduct for the parties opposing the CLASS; and/or,
- 2) Adjudication with respect to individual members of the CLASS which would as a practical matter be dispositive of interests of the other members not party to the adjudication or substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests.

- (b) The parties opposing the CLASS have acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the CLASS, making appropriate class-wide relief with respect to the CLASS as a whole in that the DEFENDANT uniformly failed to pay all wages due, including the correct overtime, for all hours worked by the members of the CLASS;
- 1) With respect to the First Cause of Action, the final relief on behalf of the CLASS sought does not relate exclusively to restitution because through this claim PLAINTIFF seek declaratory relief holding that the DEFENDANT's policy and practices constitute unfair competition, along with injunctive relief, and incidental equitable relief as may be necessary to prevent and remedy the conduct declared to constitute unfair competition;
- (c) Common questions of law and fact exist as to the members of the CLASS with respect to the practices and violations of California law as listed above, and predominate over any question affecting only individual members, and a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy, including consideration of:
- 1) The interests of the members of the CLASS in individually controlling the prosecution or defense of separate actions in that the substantial expense of individual actions will be avoided to recover the relatively small amount of economic losses sustained by the individual employees when compared to the substantial expense and burden of individual prosecution of this litigation;
- duplicative litigation that would create the risk of: (a) Inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual members of the CLASS which would establish incompatible standards of conduct for the DEFENDANT; and/or, (b) Adjudications with respect to individual members of the CLASS would as a practical matter be dispositive of the interests of the other members not parties to the adjudication or substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests;
  - 3) In the context of wage litigation because a substantial

number of individual class members will avoid asserting their legal rights out of fear of retaliation by DEFENDANT, which may adversely affect an individual's job with DEFENDANT or with a subsequent employer, the class action is the only means to assert their claims through a representative; and,

- 4) A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this litigation because class treatment will obviate the need for unduly and unnecessary duplicative litigation that is likely to result in the absence of certification of this action pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. Proc., rule 23.
- 27. This Court should permit this action to be maintained as a Class Action pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, rule 23, because:
- (a) The questions of law and fact common to the CLASS predominate over any question affecting only individual members because the DEFENDANT's employment practices were uniformly and systematically applied with respect to the entire CLASS;
- (b) A class action is superior to any other available method for the fair and efficient adjudication of the claims of the members of the CLASS because in the context of employment litigation a substantial number of individual employees will avoid asserting their rights individually out of fear of retaliation or adverse impact on their employment;
- (c) The members of the CLASS exceed 100 people and are therefore so numerous that it is impractical to bring all members of the CLASS before the Court;
- (d) PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CLASS will not be able to obtain effective and economic legal redress unless the action is maintained as a class action;
- (e) There is a community of interest in obtaining appropriate legal and equitable relief for the acts of unfair competition, statutory violations and other improprieties, and in obtaining adequate compensation for the damages and injuries which DEFENDANT's actions have inflicted upon the CLASS;

- (f) There is a community of interest in ensuring that the combined assets of DEFENDANT are sufficient to adequately compensate the members of the CLASS for the injuries sustained;
- (g) DEFENDANT has acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the CLASS, thereby making final class-wide relief appropriate with respect to these Classes as a whole;
- (h) The members of the CLASS are readily ascertainable from the business records of DEFENDANT and business records of the DEFENDANT will identify and establish membership in the CLASS; and,
- (i) Class treatment provides manageable judicial treatment calculated to bring a efficient and rapid conclusion to all litigation of all wage and hour related claims arising out of the conduct of DEFENDANT as to the members of the CLASS
- 28. DEFENDANT maintains records from which the Court can ascertain and identify by job title each of DEFENDANT's non-exempt employees who as have been systematically, intentionally and uniformly subjected to DEFENDANT's corporate policy, practices and procedures as herein alleged. PLAINTIFF will seek leave to amend the complaint to include any additional job titles of similarly situated employees when they have been identified.
- 29. DEFENDANT, as a matter of corporate policy, practice and procedure, failed to pay the members of the CLASS the wages due for all hours worked, including on-call time. All employees in the CLASS and in the CLASS, including the PLAINTIFF, performed the same primary functions and were paid by DEFENDANT according to uniform and systematic company procedures, which, as alleged herein above. This business practice was uniformly applied to each and every member of the CLASS and each and every member of the CLASS, and therefore, the propriety of this conduct can be adjudicated on a class-wide basis. DEFENDANT intentionally, knowingly, and wilfully, engaged in the above described practices.

### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 30. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C.§1331, federal question jurisdiction, 29 U.S.C. § 216, the Fair Labor Standards Act, and 28 U.S.C. § 1367, supplemental jurisdiction of state law claims. Independently, this Court also has original jurisdiction over PLAINTIFF's state law class claims pursuant to the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005, 28 U.S.C. § 1332 in that the PLAINTIFF is a resident of California, most of the CLASS is comprised of residents of California, DEFENDANT is a citizen of a state other than California, there are more than 100 individuals in the CALIFORNIA CLASS, and the amount in controversy in this complaint exceeds the sum or value of \$5,000,000. The action is brought pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, rule 23. PLAINTIFF brings this action on her own behalf, and on behalf of all persons within the CLASS as herein defined.
- 31. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because DEFENDANT (i) is subject to personal jurisdiction in this District, and/or (ii) committed the wrongful conduct against certain members of the CLASS in San Diego County, California. At all relevant times, DEFENDANT maintained offices and facilities in San Diego County, California and committed the wrongful conduct against members of the CLASS in San Diego County, California.

#### FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

#### For Unlawful Business Practices

[Cal. Bus. And Prof. Code § 17200 et seq.]

#### (By PLAINTIFF and the CLASS and against All Defendants)

- 32. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CLASS, reallege and incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, paragraphs 1 through 31 of this Complaint.
- 33. DEFENDANT is a "person" as that term is defined under Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17021.
  - 34. Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 defines unfair competition as any unlawful,

unfair, or fraudulent business act or practice. Section 17200 applies to violations of labor laws and in the employment context. Section 17203 authorizes injunctive, declaratory, and/or other equitable relief with respect to unfair competition as follows:

Any person who engages, has engaged, or proposes to engage in unfair competition may be enjoined in any court of competent jurisdiction. The court may make such orders or judgments, including the appointment of a receiver, as may be necessary to prevent the use or employment by any person of any practice which constitutes unfair competition, as defined in this chapter, or as may be necessary to restore to any person in interest any money or property, real or personal, which may have been acquired by means of such unfair competition.

California Business & Professions Code § 17203.

- 35. At all times relevant hereto, by and through the conduct described herein, DEFENDANT have engaged in unfair and unlawful' practices by failing to pay PLAINTIFFS, and the other members of the CLASS, wages due for on-call work, and have thereby deprived PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CLASS, of fundamental rights and privileges and caused them economic injury as herein alleged. DEFENDANT engaged in unfair competition by withholding compensation for hours worked. DEFENDANT further engaged in unfair and unlawful business practices by failing to keep accurate information and failing to accurately calculate the compensation due DEFENDANT's employees, in violation of California law. As herein alleged, DEFENDANT's conduct was unlawful in that, with respect to all California employees, DEFENDANT uniformly violated California law and regulations, including but not limited to Labor Code §201, §202, §204, §206.5, §216,§218, §226, §226.7, §510, §512, §1102.5, §1174, §1175, §1198, and 8 C.C.R. § 11040(7). DEFENDANT's conduct also violated federal law.
- 36. By and through the unfair and unlawful business practices described herein, DEFENDANT obtained valuable property, money, and services from the PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CLASS, and deprived them of valuable rights and benefits guaranteed by law and contract, all to their detriment and to the benefit of DEFENDANT so as to allow DEFENDANT to unfairly compete against competitors who comply with the law.

37. All the acts described herein as violations of, among other things, the Cal.
Labor Code and Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order, are unlawful and in violation
of public policy; and in addition are immoral, unethical, oppressive, and unscrupulous, and
Thereby constitute unfair and unlawful business practices in violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof.
Code § 17200 et seq. The conduct of the DEFENDANT was also deceptive in that
DEFENDANT expressly and/or implicitly represented to PLAINTIFF and the members of
the CLASS that they were not entitled to receive wages for on-call standby hours, and the
wages paid for repair work during on-call shifts were correctly calculated.

- 38. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CLASS, are entitled to, and do, seek such relief as may be necessary to restore to them the money and property which DEFENDANT have acquired, or of which PLAINTIFF, and other members of the CLASS, have been deprived, by means of the above described unfair and unlawful business practices.
- 39. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CLASS, are further entitled to, and do, seek a declaration that the above described business practices are unfair and unlawful and seek injunctive relief to enjoin DEFENDANT from engaging in any of these unfair and unlawful business practices in the future.
- 40. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CLASS, have no plan, speedy, and/or adequate remedy at law that will end the unfair and unlawful business practices of DEFENDANT. As a result of the unfair and unlawful business practices described above, PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CLASS, have suffered and will continue to suffer irreparable harm unless DEFENDANT is restrained from continuing to engage in these unfair and unlawful business practices. In addition, DEFENDANT should be required to disgorge the unpaid wages to PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CLASS.

## SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

For Failure To Pay Earned Wages and Overtime Compensation
[Cal. Lab. Code §§ 204, 210, 510, 1194 and 1198]

(By PLAINTIFF and the CLASS and Against all Defendants)

- 41. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CLASS, reallege and incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, paragraphs 1 through 40 of this Complaint.
- 42. Cal. Lab. Code § 204 requires employers to pay employees for all hours worked as follows: "all wages... ...earned by any person in any employment are due and payable twice during each calendar month, on days designated in advance by the employer as the regular paydays." Cal. Lab. Code § 510 further provides that employees in California shall not be employed more than eight (8) hours in any workday or forty (40) hours in a workweek unless they receive additional compensation beyond their regular wages in amounts specified by law.
- 43. Cal. Lab. Code §§1194 establishes an employee's right to recover unpaid wages, including overtime compensation and interest thereon, together with the costs of suit. Cal. Lab. Code § 1198 states that the employment of an employee for longer hours than those fixed by the Industrial Welfare Commission is unlawful.
- 44. As set forth herein, DEFENDANTS' policy and practice was to intentionally and uniformly deny payment of wages due for on-call time which were hours by the CLASS. This was done in an illegal attempt to avoid payment of earned wages, overtime compensation and other benefits in violation of the Cal. Lab. Code and Industrial Welfare Commission requirements.
- 45. The PLAINTIFF and the members of the CLASS are not exempt from receiving overtime compensation and other benefits under the Labor Code. The Industrial Welfare Commission, ICW Wage Order No. 4, and Labor Code §515, set forth the requirements which must be complied with to classify an employee as exempt from applicable labor laws. DEFENDANT has classified all employees in the CLASS as non-exempt. For an employee to be exempt from these rules as a bona fide "executive," all the following criteria must be met and DEFENDANT has the burden of proving that:
- (a) The employee's primary duty must be management of the enterprise, or of a customarily recognized department or subdivision; and,
  - (b) The employee must customarily and regularly direct the work of at least

two (2) or more other employees; and,

- (c) The employee must have the authority to hire and fire, or to command particularly serious attention to his or his recommendations on such actions affecting other employees; and,
- (d) The employee must customarily and regularly exercise discretion and independent judgment; and,
- (e) The employee must be primarily engaged in duties which meet the test of exemption.

No member of the CLASS was or is an executive because they all fail to meet the requirements of being an exempt "executive" within the meaning of Order No. 4.

- 46. The Industrial Welfare Commission, ICW Wage Order No. 4, and Labor Code §515, set forth the requirements which must be complied with to classify an employee as exempt from applicable labor laws. For an employee to be exempt from these rules as a bona fide "administrator," all the following criteria must be met and DEFENDANT has the burden of proving that:
- (a) The employee must perform office or non-manual work directly related to management policies or general business operation of the employer; and,
- (b) The employee must customarily and regularly exercise discretion and independent judgment; and,
- (c) The employee must regularly and directly assist a proprietor or an exempt administrator; or,
- (d) The employee must perform, under only general supervision, work requiring special training, experience, or knowledge, or,
- (e) The employee must execute special assignments and tasks under only general supervision; and,
- (f) The employee must be primarily engaged in duties which meet the test of exemption.

No member of the CLASS was or is an administrator because they all fail to meet the

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the above work; and,

requirements for being an exempt "administrator" under Order No. 4.

- 47. The Industrial Welfare Commission, ICW Wage Order No. 4, and Labor Code §515, set forth the requirements which must be complied with to classify an employee as exempt from applicable labor laws. For an employee to be exempt from these rules as a bona fide "professional," all the following criteria must be met and DEFENDANT has the burden of proving that:
- The employee is primarily engaged in an occupation commonly (a) recognized as a learned or artistic profession. For the purposes of this subsection, "learned or artistic profession" means an employee who is primarily engaged in the performance of:
- Work requiring knowledge of an advanced type in a field or 1) science or learning customarily acquired by a prolonged course of specialized intellectual instruction and study, as distinguished from a general academic education and from an apprenticeship, and from training in the performance of routine mental, manual, or physical processes, or work that is an essential part or necessarily incident to any of the above work; or,
- Work that is original and creative in character in a recognized 2) field of artistic endeavor, and the result of which depends primarily on the invention, imagination or talent of the employee or work that is an essential part of or incident to any of
- Whose work is predominately intellectual and varied in character 3) (as opposed to routine mental, manual, mechanical, or physical work) and is of such character cannot be standardized in relation to a given period of time.
- The employee must customarily and regularly exercise discretion and (b) independent judgment; and.
- The employee earns a monthly salary equivalent to no less than two (2) (c) times the state minimum wage for full-time employment. No member of the CLASS was or is a professional because they all fail to meet the requirements of being an exempt "professional" within the meaning of Order No. 4.

administrative (exempt) duties;

- 48. PLAINTIFF, and other members of the CLASS, do not fit the definition of an exempt executive, administrative, or professional employee because:

  (a) These employees do not primarily perform managerial or
- (b) Their work hours are primarily spent performing non-exempt duties, including but not limited to performing routine repairs as directed;
- (c) They do not have the discretion or independent judgment, in that they must follow exacting and comprehensive company-wide policies and procedures which dictate every aspect of their work day; and/or,
  - (d) They do not have the authority to hire and/or fire other personnel;
- 49. During the class period, the PLAINTIFF, and other members of the CLASS, worked more hours than they were paid for because of the time spent on-call under the control of the DEFENDANT, constituting a failure to pay all earned wages. In addition, the consideration of the standby hours worked would result in overtime compensation due.
- 50. Further, when an on-call page is received, and members of the CLASS are required to perform repair, maintenance and troubleshooting duties for which time they are compensated by DEFENDANT, this constitutes a split shift under California law. As a uniform company practice and policy, DEFENDANT miscalculated the compensation due for these pages and calls by failing to pay the members of the CLASS split shift compensation as required by California law.
- 51. At all times relevant times, DEFENDANT failed to pay PLAINTIFF, and other members of the CLASS, wages for the hours they have worked on-call as required by Cal. Lab. Code §204, and overtime compensation for the hours they have worked in excess of the maximum hours permissible by law as required by Cal. Lab. Code §§ 510 and 1198.
- 52. By virtue of DEFENDANT's unlawful failure to pay additional compensation to the PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CLASS, for the hours actually worked and/or DEFENDANT's unlawful failure to pay the split shift compensation, the PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CLASS, have suffered, and will continue to

PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CLASS, have suffered, and will continue to suffer, an economic injury in amounts which are presently unknown to them and which will be ascertained according to proof at trial.

- 53. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CLASS, request recovery of wages and compensation due according to proof, interest, and costs, as well as the assessment of any and all available statutory penalties against DEFENDANT, in a sum as provided by the Cal. Lab. Code and/or other statutes.
- 54. In performing the acts and practices herein alleged in violation of labor laws and refusing to provide the requisite overtime compensation, the DEFENDANT acted and continue to act intentionally, oppressively, and maliciously toward the PLAINTIFF, and toward the other members of the CLASS, with a conscious and utter disregard of their legal rights, or the consequences to them, and with the despicable intent of depriving them of their property and legal rights and otherwise causing them injury in order to increase corporate profits at the expense of PLAINTIFF and the members of the Class.
- DEFENDANT did not timely tender payment of all wages owed as required by Cal. Labor Code §§ 201 and 202. Therefore, as provided by Cal Lab. Code § 203, on behalf of the members of the CLASS who have terminated their employment, PLAINTIFF demands thirty days of pay as penalty for not paying all wages due at time of termination for all employees who terminated employment during the CLASS PERIOD and demands an accounting and payment of all wages due, plus interest.

### THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

For Failure to Provide Accurate Itemized Statements

[Cal. Lab. Code § 226]

(By PLAINTIFF and the CLASS and against DEFENDANT)

56. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CLASS, reallege and incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, paragraphs 1 through 55 of this Complaint.

- "an accurate itemized statement in writing showing (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked by the employee, (3) the number of piece rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis, (4) all deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item, (5) net wages earned, (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid, (7) the name of the employee and his or her social security number, except that by January 1, 2008, only the last four digits of his or her social security number or an employee identification number other than a social security number may be shown on the itemized statement, (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer, and (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee."
- 58. At all times relevant herein, DEFENDANT violated Labor Code § 226 with respect to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CLASS, in that DEFENDANT failed to properly and accurately itemize the gross wages earned, the net wages earned, and all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate for these employees. This failure by DEFENDANT was the intentional result of DEFENDANT's intentional refusal to compensate for on-call hours worked and/or the miscalculation of compensation conceded to be due in the form of split shift compensation to the CLASS.
- 59. DEFENDANTS knowingly and intentionally failed to comply with Labor Code § 226, causing damages to PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CLASS. These damages include, but are not limited to, unpaid wages for hours actually worked, the costs expended calculating the true hours worked and the amount of employment taxes which were not properly paid to state and federal tax authorities. These damages may be difficult to estimate. Therefore, PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CLASS may recover liquidated damages of \$50.00 for the initial pay period in which the violation occurred, and \$100.00 for each violation in subsequent pay period pursuant to Labor Code § 226, in an

amount according to proof at the time of trial (but in no event more than \$4,000.00 for PLAINTIFF and each respective member of the CLASS herein), plus costs, pursuant to Labor Code § 226(g).

### FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

# For Violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act

[29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq.]

## By PLAINTIFF and the CLASS and Against All Defendants)

- 60. PLAINTIFF, and the other members of the CLASS, reallege and incorporate by this reference, as though fully set forth herein, paragraphs 1 through 59 of this Complaint.
- 61. The Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. §201, et seq., states that an employee must be compensated for all hours worked, including all straight time compensation and overtime compensation. 29 C.F.R. §778.223 and 29 C.F.R. §778.315. This Court has concurrent jurisdiction over claims involving the Fair Labor Standards Act pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216.
- 62. PLAINTIFF also brings this lawsuit as a collective action under the Fair Labor and Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201, et seq. (the "FLSA"), on behalf of all persons who were, are, or will be employed by DEFENDANT in a IT Maintenance Staff position, or in other substantially similar positions during the period commencing three years prior to the filing of this Complaint and ending on the date as the Court shall determine (the "COLLECTIVE CLASS PERIOD"), who performed work in excess of forty (40) hours in one week and did not receive all compensation as required by the FLSA for the hours worked (the "COLLECTIVE CLASS") due to the exclusion of on-call hours worked. To the extent equitable tolling operates to toll claims by the COLLECTIVE CLASS against the DEFENDANT, the COLLECTIVE CLASS PERIOD should be adjusted accordingly.
- 63. Questions of law and fact common to the COLLECTIVE CLASS as a whole, but not limited to the following, include:
  - a. Whether DEFENDANT's policies and practices failed to accurately

record all on-call hours worked by PLAINTIFF and the other members of the **COLLECTIVE CLASS**;

- h. Whether DEFENDANT failed to adequately compensate the members of the COLLECTIVE CLASS for all hours worked as required by the FLSA;
- Whether DEFENDANTS should be enjoined from continuing the practices which violate the FLSA; and,
  - Whether DEFENDANTS are liable to the COLLECTIVE CLASS. d.
- This cause of action for the violations of the FLSA may be brought and 64. maintained as an "opt-in" collective action pursuant to Section 16(b) of FLSA, 29 U.S.C. 216(b), for all claims asserted by the representative PLAINTIFF of the COLLECTIVE CLASS because the claims of the PLAINTIFF are similar to the claims of the members of the prospective COLLECTIVE CLASS.
- PLAINTIFF and the COLLECTIVE CLASS are similarly situated, have 65. substantially similar job requirements and pay provisions, and are subject to DEFENDANT's common and uniform policy and practice of failing to pay for all actual time worked and wages earned, and failing to accurately record all hours worked by these employees in violation of the FLSA and the Regulations implementing the Act as enacted by the Secretary of Labor (the "REGULATIONS").
- DEFENDANT is engaged in communication, business, and transmission 66. throughout the United States and are, therefore, engaged in commerce within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 203(b).
- 29 U.S.C. § 255 provides that a three-year statute of limitations applies to 67. willful violations of the FLSA. The conduct by the DEFENDANT which violated the FLSA was willful.
- PLAINTIFF and the members of the COLLECTIVE CLASS regularly worked 68. in excess of forty (40) hours in a workweek. Pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201, et seq., PLAINTIFF and the members of the COLLECTIVE CLASS are entitled to compensation for all hours actually worked, including on-call hours, and are also

entitled to wages at a rate not less than one and one-half times their regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours in any workweek, which wages were not paid due to the exclusion of on-call, standby time.

- 69. For purposes of the Fair Labor Standards Act, the employment practices of DEFENDANT were and are uniform throughout California and the United States in all respects material to the claims asserted in this Complaint.
- 70. DEFENDANT violated the Fair Labor Standards Act by failing to pay hourly employees for all hours worked, including overtime hours, as alleged herein above.
- 71. As a result of DEFENDANT's failure to pay compensation for hours worked as required by the FLSA, PLAINTIFF and the members of the COLLECTIVE CLASS were damaged in an amount to be proved at trial.
- 72. PLAINTIFF, therefore, demands that they and the members of the COLLECTIVE CLASS be paid compensation as required by the FLSA for every hour worked in any work week for which they were not correctly compensated, plus liquidated damages, interest and statutory costs as provided by law.

### <u>PRAYER</u>

WHEREFOR, PLAINTIFF prays for judgment against each Defendant, jointly and severally, as follows:

- 1. On behalf of the CLASS:
  - A) That the Court certify action asserted by the CLASS as a class action pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, rule 23;
  - B) An order temporarily, preliminarily and permanently enjoining and restraining DEFENDANT from engaging in similar unlawful conduct as set forth herein;
  - C) An order requiring DEFENDANT to pay all wages and all sums unlawfully withheld from compensation due to PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CLASS; and,
  - D) Disgorgement of DEFENDANT's ill-gotten gains into a fluid fund for

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- restitution of the sums incidental to DEFENDANT's violations due to PLAINTIFF and to the other members of the CLASS.
- Compensatory damages, according to proof at trial, including compensatory E) damages for both regular and overtime compensation due PLAINTIFF and the other members of the CLASS according to proof, during the applicable CLASS PERIOD plus interest thereon at the statutory rate;
- F) The wages of all terminated employees due to members of the CLASS as a penalty from the due date thereof at the same rate until paid or until an action therefor is commenced in accordance with Cal. Lab. Code § 203;
- The greater of all actual damages or fifty dollars (\$50) for the initial pay G) period in which a violation occurs and one hundred dollars (\$100) per each member of the CLASS for each violation in a subsequent pay period, not exceeding an aggregate penalty of four thousand dollars (\$4,000), and an award of costs for violations of Cal. Lab. Code § 226.
- On behalf of the COLLECTIVE CLASS: 2.
  - That the Court certify the Fifth Cause of Action asserted by the A) COLLECTIVE CLASS as an opt-in class action under 29 U.S.C. § 216(b);
  - That the Court declare the rights and duties of the parties consistent with the B) relief sought by PLAINTIFF;
  - Issue a declaratory judgment that DEFENDANT's acts, policies, practices and C) procedures complained of herein violated provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act;
  - That DEFENDANT be enjoined from further violations of the Fair Labor D) Standards Act;
  - That the PLAINTIFF and the members of the COLLECTIVE CLASS recover E) compensatory, damages and an equal amount of liquidated damages as provided under the law and in 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).
- On all claims: 3.

- A) An award of interest, including prejudgment interest at the legal rate.
- B) An award of liquidated damages, statutory damages, cost of suit, but neither this prayer nor any other allegation or prayer in this Complaint is to be construed as a request, under any circumstance, that would result in a request for attorneys' fees under Cal. Lab. Code § 218.5;
- C) Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable.

Dated: August 12, 2009

BLUMENTHAL, NORDREHAUG &

BHOWMIK

Norman B. Blumenthal Attorneys for Plaintiff

# **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

PLAINTIFF demands a jury trial on issues triable to a jury.

Dated: August 12, 2009

BLUMENTHAL, NORDREHAUG & BHOWMIK

Norman B. Blumenthal Attorneys for Plaintiff

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COMPLAINT

## **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil deploy the purpose of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil deploy the purpose of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil deploy the purpose of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil deploy the purpose of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil deploy the purpose of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil deploy the purpose of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil deploy the purpose of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil deploy the purpose of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil deploy the purpose of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil deploy the purpose of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil deploy the purpose of the Clerk of Court for the court for the civil deploy the purpose of the Clerk of Court for the court f

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(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Contra Cost (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)	AT&T SERVICES, INC. 09 AUG 12 PM 4: 17  County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PEAINTIFF GASES ONLY)			
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)			CONDEMNATION CASES, US	E THE LOCATION OF THE
(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)	Attorneys (If Known)			
orman Blumenthal, Blumenthal, Nordrehaug & Bhowr	nik,	'09 CV	1760 JM	NLS
255 Calle Clara, La Jolla, CA, 92037, (858)551-1223	lui Ci			Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only		(For Diversity Cases Only)		and One Box for Defendant)
□ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff  ■ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)	Citiz	en of This State		
☐ 2 U.S. Government ☐ 4 Diversity Defendant (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)		en of Another State	of Business In A	Another State
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(Excl. Veterans)	Fraud 🗖 6	90 Other		☐ 810 Selective Service
☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment Liability ☐ 371 Truth of Veteran's Benefits ☐ 350 Motor Vehicle ☐ 380 Other		10 Fair Labor Standards	☐ 861 HIA (1395ff)	850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange
☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits ☐ 355 Motor Vehicle Proper	rty Damage	Act	☐ 862 Black Lung (923) ☐ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))	☐ 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410
☐ 190 Other Contract Product Liability ☐ 385 Proper 195 Contract Product Liability ☐ 360 Other Personal Product		20 Labor/Mgmt. Relations 30 Labor/Mgmt.Reporting	☐ 864 SSID Title XVI	☐ 890 Other Statutory Actions
☐ 196 Franchise Injury	0.7	& Disclosure Act 40 Railway Labor Act	□ 865 RSI (405(g))	☐ 891 Agricultural Acts ☐ 892 Economic Stabilization Ac
☐ 210 Land Condemnation ☐ 441 Voting ☐ 510 Motion	ns to Vacate 🔲 7	90 Other Labor Litigation	☐ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff	☐ 893 Environmental Matters
☐ 220 Foreclosure ☐ 442 Employment Senten ☐ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment ☐ 443 Housing/ Habeas C	1	91 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	or Defendant) □ 871 IRS—Third Party	■ 894 Energy Allocation Act ■ 895 Freedom of Information
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☐ 245 Tort Product Liability ☐ 444 Welfare ☐ 535 Death ☐ 290 All Other Real Property ☐ 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - ☐ 540 Manda	Penalty amus & Other 🗇 4	62 Naturalization Application		Under Equal Access
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V. ORIGIN  (Place an "X" in One Box Only)  Remanded from State Court 3 Remanded from Appellate Co	urt Re	opened anoth	ferred from Grant	n Judgment
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VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS UNDER F.R.C.P. 23	71011011	DEMAND \$ 000.00	JURY DEMANE	_
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Court Name: USDC California Southern

Division: 3

Receipt Number: CASO04158 Cashier ID: sramirez

Transaction Date: 08/12/2009

Payer Name: BLUMENTHAL

CIVIL FILING FEE

For: GREEN V. AT AND T

Case/Party: D-CAS-3-09-CV-001760-001

Amount: \$350.00

Check/Money Order Num: 12042 Amt Tendered: \$350.00

Total Due: \$350.00

Total Tendered: \$350.00 Change Amt: \$0.00

There will be a fee of \$45.00 charged for any returned check.